



CENTER OF ITALY'S SOCIAL EARTHQUAKE ZONE

Milan, chief city of the Lombardy-Piedmont region of Italy, where workers seized factories several months ago, and where much unrest has been manifested since, has frankly considered itself for long years the virtual capital—the "capitale morale"—of the country.

In the recent industrial troubles factories are reported to have been seized by workmen in practically all parts of Italy; but it was in Lombardy and Piedmont, the territorial division lying farthest north and farthest northwest in the peninsula—the seats of the important Italian metal industries—that the seizures were most numerous. In those regions, in turn, the movement was most pronounced in and about Turin, the principal city of the Piedmont, and the Detroit of Italy; and in Milan, metropolis of the north, and Italy's Fall River, Philadelphia and Schenectady rolled into one.

Lombardy and the Piedmont comprise the plains of the upper reaches of the great Po valley, the Alpine foothills, and the southern and eastern slopes of a large part of the Alps themselves. Milan, on a fertile plain near the southern ends of some of the most important of the Alpine passes, was a town of considerable importance even in the dim historic days of 222 B. C., when it was captured by the Romans. It was then, as it is today, second city in point of population in Italy.

Milan early earned a position of leadership among surrounding cities, a leadership, however, which did not go unchallenged. The city has been destroyed many times, once by a league of neighboring towns, and at other times by alien conquerors. After each destruction it has sprung up on a seemingly firmer foundation to achieve greater popularity and a more far-reaching influence.

Apart from any reputation Milan may have gained as an index to industrial unrest, it is a leader among Italian cities in other respects. Indeed, the Milanese insist that their city, their "capitale morale," is the very heart and head of Italy's modern life and activity—"first in industry, first in municipal progress, first in political importance."

The industrial plants of modern Milan have fairly burst the confines of the old city and many are to be found in numerous populous suburbs that have sprung up, especially since 1895. The population now numbers close to three-quarters of a million. It is exceeded only slightly, if at all, by that of Naples, and is considered in excess of that of Rome.

TIENTSIN, PANORAMA CITY

Tientsin, in the northeastern edge of the terrible Chinese famine area, in which millions of people are starving to death, is like a necklace of towns strung together.

To walk about Tientsin is to travel. An afternoon's stroll from the native to the British, French, Italian, Russian and other foreign quarters, gives the sensation of a magic tour through Peking, London, Paris, Rome and Petrograd. And the windmills among the salt mounds just outside the city add a touch of Holland.

This panorama city has had a tempestuous history. There a group of American and other foreign residents—Herbert C. Hoover among them—defended themselves for a month against the fanatic Boxers in 1900.

Since then the native city has been known as Cheng-li, or "Town without Walls," because the ancient barriers were demolished during the siege. Of the 500 doughty foreigners more than fifty were killed and many others wounded before military aid came.

Tientsin was the scene of another famous siege, that of the Taiping rebels in 1853. Followers of Hung Sin Tsuan, who had professed Christianity and set himself up in Nanking as the "Heavenly King," marched toward Peking. But the Waterloo of the "long haired rebels," so-called because they could not plait their queues and thus signify loyalty to the Manchus, came at Tientsin.

The success of the campaign against the revolutionists was due principally to the gallant "Chinese Gordon," Gen. Charles George Gordon, and his "Ever-Victorious Army."

Commanding the native force at Tientsin was Seng-ko-lin-sin, a Mongol general, who later distinguished himself less creditably. In 1860 he sought to defend Tientsin against a foreign expedition by erecting an immense mud rampart outside the city. Tientsin was captured and held for two years by the British and French, and the crude defense is known in the foreign quarters as "Seng-ko-lin-sin's folly."

The region about Tientsin was known as Chi-chou under the Hsia dynasty, whose rulers, 4,000 years ago, already had court astronomers who could predict eclipses. Later it was called Ya-chou, in the Chou dynasty, marked by the western wars waged

by Mu-Wang against the "Dog Barbarians," thought to have been ancestors of the Huns, Tientsin dates back at least to the fourteenth century.

The salt industry in the neighborhood of Tientsin is prodigious. Windmills are used to pump salt water into the fields along the Halo river, where the widely known Chang-lu salt is made. Before the war nearly 20,000 tons were produced annually. But Tientsin is important commercially in many respects. It is a rice market, and Siberia's tea formerly was shipped through there. Exports were as varied as the needs of the dozen or so nations which had separate settlements along five miles of the river front, and its imports were as diverse as the commodities those nations had to exchange.

The Pello and Hunho rivers converge at Tientsin. From the latter to the Yangtze-Kiang extends the Grand canal, that remarkable specimen of ancient engineering, mentioned by Confucius, which originally was more than 1,000 miles long.

Tientsin has more people than Boston. It is the principal city of Chih-li, and is 86 miles southeast of Peking by rail.

ONE OF GERMANY'S LOST TERRITORIES

The former German Samoan islands constitute one of the important groups of Pacific islands that have fallen to the lot of Great Britain, through New Zealand, as a result of the World war.

The Samoan group, called by former geographers "The Navigators' Islands," from the skill in navigation shown by its inhabitants, consists of four principal bits of land lying in the South Pacific, nearly midway between New Zealand and Hawaii.

The number of islands in the group may, by counting the smaller, be increased to 11, or even 14, but only Savai, Upolu, Tutuila, (owned by the United States) and the three usually included under the general term Manua, are important.

All are verdure-clad and inhabited, and in appearance and shape resemble immense green hats, the interior representing the crown being mountainous, while the brim or shore is covered with coconut palms, breadfruit, banana and other tropical trees, which furnish the native food.

At some prehistoric period the peaks of a submerged mountain chain running northeast and southwest have been lifted from the depths of the ocean by the upheaval of volcanoes now long extinct. Accumulations of soil brought by heavy rains from the mountains meet the ever-growing reef, which prevents easy approach to the land except in those places where fresh-water streams, forcing their way through, form openings in the coral barrier.

Between reef and shore a lagoon, varying in width from 200 yards to two or three miles, provides a secure highway for coast and inter-island traffic. The entire length of the group, if Rose Island be included, is little less than 300 miles, and the gross area of the islands is larger than the state of Rhode Island by 50 square miles.

The native inhabitants of the islands are of Polynesian stock and are clearly related to the natives of both Hawaii and New Zealand. For practical purposes these natives may be divided into four classes. At the head stand the chiefs, who are hereditary in the sense that they must belong to certain families, but elective in that they exercise authority by virtue of titles conferred on them.

The Tulafoa, talking-man, is their executive officer, who phrases their thoughts in eloquent language, and is frequently the central figure in the district and the source of authority. Below him and above the lowest class, composed of what are known as the "common people," are the native teachers and catechists, who wear more clothes and do less fighting than the rest of the population.

There is nothing in the dress or bearing of a high chief which enables a foreigner to distinguish him, but he is isolated from the rest of the people by a system of rigid etiquette. No one may hold up an umbrella or do certain kinds of work in his presence, and a special vocabulary is set apart in which to address him. The common names for food, an axe, a pig, etc., are tabooed in his presence. His face, his anger and other attributes are described in an entirely different set of words from those used for ordinary men.

The powers and duties of the "talking men" are considerable. They are men of much dignity of carriage, and as they stand leaning upon a staff of office with a "fue," or fly-flap cast over one shoulder, with which occasionally to emphasize their remarks, they compare favorably in appearance with the orators of a nation more civilized than themselves.

MARSHALL ISLANDS: NEW JAPANESE TERRITORY

The Marshall Islands, one of the Pacific archipelagos formerly owned by Germany, and over which Japan has been given a mandate by the League of Nations, practically form a barrier between the Hawaiian Islands, on the east, and Guam and the Philippines to the west.

The two chains of curiously shaped atolls, or coral islands consisting of low-lying coral reefs encircling lagoons, known as the Marshall group, lie a little south of the center of an imaginary line connecting Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines.

Guam, Samoa and Honolulu form a

triangle of trade routes, with its sides not penetrated by important steamship lines. Within this isolated Pacific triangle are the Marshall Islands.

Before the war Sydney was reached by steamer, a voyage of more than 3,000 miles. The only other method of egress was a steamer to Ponape which connected with a French line to Singapore.

Like two loosely strung chains of jewels, the islands stretch from northwest to southeast, each with its lagoon setting encased by a strangely shaped circle of coral, some like triangles, harps and stirrups, and one outlining a bull's head with its horns.

Straight haired, dark brown natives, still preserving the religious significance of tattoo and taboo, are to be found. Once a sturdy, reliant, seafaring people, for they were the best mariners in the Pacific, the white man's coming, as in the case of his advent among the Eskimo and the Indian, did not seem wholly beneficial. In teaching them ways to live more easily civilization robbed them of that boldness and adventure which made them the hardest of the Micronesian peoples. Many of the young died of tuberculosis.

Skillful and fearless navigators, the natives used bread-tree wood to make sailing canoes in which they would voyage for months. They devised charts, made of sticks, showing the locations of islands and the directions of prevailing winds.

Ancestor worship was their predominant religious sentiment. With petitions and gifts they worshipped the departed whose spirits were supposed to return to earth in certain palm trees which they set off in stone enclosures. Birds and fishes sometimes embodied these spirits, they believed, and thus certain species became taboo.

Homes of the natives were not pretentious. Floors were raised above the ground to escape the rats, and thatched roofs covered the combination house and storage room.

The two island groups are known as the Ratak and Ralik chains. Their entire area is not more than 100 square miles; their native population before the war was 15,000, with fewer than 300 foreigners. The seat of German government was on Jaluit and the most populous island is Majeru, with but 1,600 persons.

Other explorers had touched at the islands but they, with the Gilbert group, took their names from Captains Marshall and Gilbert who explored them in 1788. The Germans annexed the islands in 1886.

FORMER AUSTRIAN NAVAL BASE NOW ITALIAN STRONGHOLD

Pola, formerly important to Austria as its naval base, now is equally important to Italy, for a different reason. A glance at a map of the Adriatic will show that the possession of Pola, and the recent acquisition of the island of Cherso, by the terms of the Rapallo agreement, give Italy control of the water route to Fiume.

Situated near the extremity of the Istrian peninsula, 85 miles by rail southwest of Trieste, Pola's sole important activity before the war was connected with the repairing, provisioning and harboring of the Austrian naval forces. The town is virtually without industrial establishments or manufactures.

In 1900 the population of Pola was about what it had been eighteen centuries before under the rule of Roman emperors. During the succeeding ten years, however, it grew from 45,000 to 70,000.

The practically land-locked harbor is divided, the upper or northern half being the commercial roadstead, and the lower half (below the chain bridge which connects Scoglio Olivio, or Oliva Island, with the mainland) being the Porto Militare, with the extensive marine arsenal on the southeastern shore. The city itself clusters around a castle-crowned hill which was once the site of the Roman capitol. The castle is a memento of the days of Venetian prowess.

Its settlement is attributed to the Colchians who pursued Jason and his argonauts. Pola's splendid harbor became a Roman possession in 178 B. C., but Julius Caesar destroyed it for having espoused the cause of Pompey. Some years later it was rebuilt by the Emperor Augustus at the instance, according to Pliny, of his beloved daughter Julia.

The most impressive ruin in Pola is the vast amphitheater, erected at the beginning of the Christian era in honor of the emperors, Septimius Severus and Caracalla. This is believed to be the only Roman amphitheater whose outer walls have withstood the ravages of time and of man. The interior, however, is badly dismantled and the foundation walls at one end, centuries ago, were extensively quarried by the Venetians who desired the white Istrian limestone for the erection of their own palaces.

About the middle of the 12th century Pola became a Venetian city. In the destructive wars, which resulted from the rivalry between Venice and Genoa to control the commerce of the world two centuries later, this port across the Adriatic from its parent republic suffered often and grievously. It was completely destroyed in 1379, and for nearly four and a half centuries it lay dormant. It passed to Austria at the end of the Napoleonic wars, however, and its modern growth dates from 1848, when it was selected as an Austrian naval base.

Pola lies almost due east of Venice, a distance of 75 miles across the Adriatic.

LOSES HOPE OF SIGNING PACT

French Ex-Premier Gives up Idea that United States Will Ratify Treaty of Versailles.

WILL TAKE VOTE ON WAGE CUT

Fire Destroys Plant of American Potash Company at Antioch, Nebraska—Millions Are Lost in the Cold Wave.

Washington, D. C.—The first authoritative evidence that former Premier Viviani has abandoned hope of the United States ratifying the Versailles peace treaty or entering the league of nations, has just been made known by members of the French delegation.

It appears that M. Viviani, after his consultations with President Harding, Secretary of State Hughes, Senator Lodge and other leaders, is convinced the Harding administration intends to re-establish peace with Germany by means of the Knox resolution.

The authority for this disclosure is none other than Stephane Lauzanne, editor of Le Matin, who accompanied M. Viviani to this country. M. Lauzanne himself had a conference with President Harding.

There appeared in Le Matin a cable dispatch from M. Lauzanne, containing the following:

"The American senate will vote the Knox resolution for a separate peace with Germany."

Chicago Workmen to Vote On Cut.

Chicago, Ill.—Plans are under way for referendum by 60,000 building trades workers of Chicago on a reduced wage scale proposed by the contractors. Decision to submit the proposition to the men was reached by union chiefs after the employers had promised that contracts for projects totalling \$100,000,000 would be let if the wage scale is reduced. At present the industry is almost at a standstill here. The balloting will extend through several days. The proposed reductions range from 20 to 25 per cent. Skilled labor would drop from \$1.25 an hour to \$1 and unskilled from \$1.00 to 70 cents. The cut, if adopted, would be effective on May 1.

Millions Lost in Cold Wave.

Mountain Grove, Mo.—The damage to the fruit crops in the Ozark region caused by the recent cold wave is estimated at between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000, it was announced by horticultural experts, following the compilation of reports from the fruit districts in Missouri and Arkansas. Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, cherries and plums have been found to be a complete loss, while the damage to strawberries and grapes was said to be a partial loss.

Fire Destroys Potash Plant.

Alliance, Neb.—Fire, supposed to have originated from sparks from a passing Burlington train, totally destroyed the east plant of the American Potash company at Antioch, about 15 miles east of here Saturday, causing a loss estimated at between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

President Makes Appointments.

Washington, D. C.—The appointment of Charles H. Burke of Pierre, S. D., a business man and former chairman of the house Indian committee, is announced by President Harding as commissioner of Indian affairs. The president also appointed George H. Carter of Iowa to be public printer, and Thomas Robertson of Maryland, commissioner of patents.

Soviets Seek Trade With U. S.

London.—Despite the uncompromising tone of the recent note of Secretary of State Hughes in reply to representations by Russia for the opening of trade relations with the United States, the principal objective of the Russian soviet government's foreign policy is and will continue to be the establishment of relations with the United States, according to Lenoid Krassin, bolshevik representative.

Will Again Produce Passion Play.

Oberammergau, Bavaria.—The village elders of Oberammergau have voted to enact the Passion play in 1922. The last presentation was given in 1910. The peasants who portray the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ in fulfillment of a vow made in 1634 to present the Passion play every ten years as an expression of gratitude for having been spared from plague, were unable to enact it in 1920, because of unsettled conditions and the havoc which the war wrought among the performers and musicians.

Germans Drinking Less Beer.

Washington, D. C.—Beer drinking in Germany has fallen off by more than 750,000,000 gallons a year, as compared with pre-war consumption, Consul General William Coffin at Berlin reported to the Department of Commerce. The consumption dropped from 1,272,000,000 gallons in 1913 to 541,000,000 in 1920, while wine consumption decreased from 70,000,000 to 52,000,000. Mr. Coffin added, however, that the population of Germany had decreased by 4,500,000 in the same period.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Criminal charges were filed in the house of representatives against Representative John O. Yeiser, Jr., of Omaha, charging him with having left the state while a member of the legislature and going to Council Bluffs, where he was married to Miss Gertrude A. Sturm, daughter of Senator and Mrs. A. F. Sturm of Nebraska. Yeiser entered a plea of not guilty, but was sentenced to a long and happy married life by the chairman and presented with a handsome beaten silver tea set, the gift of the house, and released from custody after solemnly promising that it would never happen again.

Senate amendments to the state bill insurance bill were concurred in by the lower house. The amendments provide that only 10 per cent of the premiums must be paid into the state before November 1, when the balance will go into the state treasury.

The house passed the bill making it unlawful for any person, board or commission to appoint a person related by blood or marriage to a clerkship where the remuneration comes from public funds.

Congressman W. E. Andrews of Hastings, on his way back to Washington for the special session of congress which begins April 11, stopped in Lincoln long enough to address a joint session of the legislature. The congressman declared that revision of the governmental revenue machinery, except postal, and passage of an emergency tariff to prevent importation of wheat from Canada, will be two of the principal tasks before the special session.

The house passed two bills that are of particular interest to dairy farmers. These are part of a program for stamping out bovine tuberculosis in the state. One requires the owners of all cows to have them tested for tuberculosis within a year, and meanwhile the milk must be pasteurized. The other requires the testing of those brought into the state.

A measure licensing film companies operating in Nebraska, specifying how far they can go in showing sex and crime pictures and giving an unpaid commission power to withdraw the license and force film companies to forfeit the license money, will be submitted to the senate judiciary committee as a substitute for the motion picture censorship bill.

Rickard of Webster has a substitute bill for S. F. 246 which, if enacted into law, will give country precincts and townships the same right cities and villages now have to say where Sunday baseball shall be played within their limits. Senator Rikard is a farmer.

The new department blue sky law carrying stringent provisions, giving the state bureau of securities almost arbitrary control over new stock corporations from the moment of their inception, was passed by the house by a vote of 76 to 3. The bill was violently attacked by special interests in the state.

The house committee of the whole has recommended for passage a bill providing that the lieutenant governor when acting as chief executive shall receive the salary of the governor and that it shall be taken from the governor's salary fund.

H. V. Hoagland, sergeant-at-arms of the state senate and a member of that branch of the law-making body in the sessions of 1913 and 1915, has been appointed federal jury commissioner by Judge T. C. Munger.

Having disposed of virtually all of its own important measures, with only a few exceptions, the senate is seeing its way clear to adjourn about April 15.

The state senate has killed Senate File No. 218, a bill creating a state school medical inspector in the state superintendent's office.

The co-operative banking bill passed the house without a single vote raised in opposition.

The house of representatives has declared in favor of nationalizing the coal industry.

Nebraska's road building program for 1921 calls for the construction of 22 separate projects totaling approximately 250 miles of state highway at an estimated cost of \$2,000,000.

The house advanced for third reading the Williams bill, providing for an unpaid commission to adopt a state flag, and also to get a new state seal, upon which the golden rod, the state flower, will figure prominently. It shall be emblematic of the history, experience, sovereignty and dignity of the state.

A special appropriation bill has been approved for passage by the house, which takes care of department and institution needs from April 1 to June 30 this year, in order to put the state on the new fiscal year basis, beginning July 1.

The Osterman reparations bill, constituting the state railway commission a court of reparations to adjust claims on excessive freight or express rates on intrastate shipments was passed by the house without a single objection.

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